

**Signposts & Journeys Report for "Züriputsch by Bernhard Hirzel"**

*Bernhard Hirzel studied orientalist, especially Sanskrit and welcomes reforms in education. He is a pantheist fascinated by the world view of the Veda. His focus lies on philosophy. He wants to promote the study of the Sanskrit in his country and accepts a position at the University of Zürich. His programme however does not raise much interest. He accepts a position as parish in the town of Pfäffikon.*

*When the chair of theology becomes free he applies for it. At the same time, he also votes in favor of another competitor David Friedrich Strauss, who is finally appointed for the chair. The appointment however is not understood by the rural people. Discontent is growing. They feel that their moral and economic interests are not respected. Petitions are made.*

*Bernhard Hirzel gets more and more involved in rural life and is transformed. He understands now the relevance of spiritual religiosity and supports the movement against Strauss. When things start to escalate he takes the leadership of a troop of farmers against Zürich. The Putsch against the radical government is successful and Hirzel becomes part in the newly established conservative government.*

*His organizational abilities are very limited. He uses his political position most of all in order to justify his involvement during the Züriputsch.*

*The pressure from outside grows.*

*He gets more and more involved in indecent actions (financial mismanagement, seduction of young maidens).*

*A young lover seems to be able to save him.*

*Due to his economically little successful life, and the costs he had to admit, caused by his irregular love life, he has accumulated an important debt.*

*He is accused for financial mismanagement.*

*He gives up and leaves with his lover to Paris, where they both commit suicide.*

**SIGNPOST 1****Overall Signpost 1 as it relates to The Present:**

*Bernhard Hirzel's childhood seems to be cursed. The country seems to be in decay.*

**Main Character Signpost 1 as it relates to Doing:**

*In early years Bernhard involves in studying hard and writing his doctoral thesis in oriental studies.*

**Impact Character Signpost 1 as it relates to Developing a Plan:**

*Johannes Hirzel deceived by his wife and mankind in general decides to trust only in material values, especially money.*

**Main vs. Impact Signpost 1 as it relates to Memories:**

*Bernhard is filled with unpleasant feelings due to his childhood memories. Haunted by the violence, rejections and injustices suffered or observed he tries to escape this environment into an ideal world of fantasy.*

JOURNEY 1
<b>Overall Journey 1 from The Present to How Things are Changing:</b> <i>The new liberal movement promisses changes. Bernhard finds a new way of seeing things in oriental religions and philosophies.</i>
<b>Main Character Journey 1 from Doing to Obtaining:</b> <i>Bernhard is called to the university of Zürich and hopes to be able to make a living out of his passion for oriental languages, but efforts remain unsuccesful.</i>
<b>Impact Character Journey 1 from Developing a Plan to Playing a Role:</b> <i>Johannes Hirzel accumulates great wealth and represses all motions of sentimentalism or spirituality in his family.</i>
<b>Main vs. Impact Journey 1 from Memories to Impulsive Responses:</b> <i>The voilent impulses by his father Johannes find their climax when Bernhard's beloved grandmother dies due to the long time effects of injuries she suffered when Johannes throw her down the stairway.</i>

SIGNPOST 2
<p><b>Overall Signpost 2 as it relates to How Things are Changing:</b>  <i>Suddenly, Bernhard is involved in a completely different life with material responsibilities and in an environment of pragmatic folk spirituality.</i></p>
<p><b>Main Character Signpost 2 as it relates to Obtaining:</b>  <i>Material and symbolic recognition is are denied to Bernhard. Therefore he searches for other options to make a living. He accepts the position as a parish.</i></p>
<p><b>Impact Character Signpost 2 as it relates to Playing a Role:</b>  <i>The inability of Johannes' son to take responsibility for their economic needs offers him the opportunity to show his superiority in material questions and to demonstrate his dominance through the rejection or acceptance of their demands for money, according to his interest.</i></p>
<p><b>Main vs. Impact Signpost 2 as it relates to Impulsive Responses:</b>  <i>Since the profession as a philosophy professor, a position which Bernhard identifies as his true calling, cannot sustain a family household, Bernhard tries to set his feet on earth and takes the pragmatic decision to accept a position as county parish.</i></p>

<b>JOURNEY 2</b>
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**Overall Journey 2 from How Things are Changing to The Future:**

*It seems that Bernhard finds a way to combine his passion for oriental studies and his position as a parish. He takes responsibilities for the people and translates Sanskrit works. But all comes at a price. He works hard, his marriage gets continuously more unhappy and gets involved in rumours.*

**Main Character Journey 2 from Obtaining to Gathering Information:**

*His position as parish brings him in contact with a new world view that captivates him.*

**Impact Character Journey 2 from Playing a Role to Changing One's Nature:**

*Johannes Hirzel stops offering his support to his oldest son Johannes when he rejects to pay for a better position in the military hierarchy for Johannes.*

**Main vs. Impact Journey 2 from Impulsive Responses to Innermost Desires:**

*As time goes on Bernhard becomes more and more entrapped by economic responsibilities which claim for external support. He finds this support in his father, even though, not as fully as he expects. The economic dependence of Bernhard seems a substitution for a real relationship with his father. At the same time his desire for a better world, more spiritual and aesthetic grows and draw his attention to Anabaptist movements, folks spirituality and sensual adventures with women.*

**SIGNPOST 3****Overall Signpost 3 as it relates to The Future:**

*Finally, he starts a real love affair. Foisted and true illegitimate children, fruits of rumours and moral slips increase the pressure on his already instable family economy.*

**Main Character Signpost 3 as it relates to Gathering Information:**

*Berhard feels responsible for the rural people of his parish and decides to support their movement against the city.*

**Impact Character Signpost 3 as it relates to Changing One's Nature:**

*No intimate conversation take place anymore between father Johannes and son Bernhard. He accuses him publicly for mismanagement and has a highly negative influences in Bernhard's reputation.*

**Main vs. Impact Signpost 3 as it relates to Innermost Desires:**

*The discontrol with romantic relationships and economic incompetence make the situation finally escalate. Bernhard is abandoned by his wife, is no longer supported by his father and loses apparently all support by his friends. In this situation of crisis he makes finally the encounter with a person who represents all he longs for Marie Welti, the love of his live.*

<b>JOURNEY 3</b>
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**Overall Journey 3 from The Future to The Past:**

*Bernhard takes the leadership during the Züriputsch and gets involved in the political events of his times. His political skills and economic power are not sufficient to sustain the difficult position in which he has driven himself. Finally, he is economically and emotionally bankrupt.*

**Main Character Journey 3 from Gathering Information to Understanding:**

*Bernhard takes the leadership during the Züriputsch and sees himself involved in a serious of contradictory situations, which he helped to cause. He understands that something about him is wrong.*

**Impact Character Journey 3 from Changing One's Nature to Conceiving an Idea:**

*Finally, Johannes conceives the idea that the only way his sons will learn to take more responsibility for their material needs, is to reject any form of economic support to them.*

**Main vs. Impact Journey 3 from Innermost Desires to Contemplation:**

*At Marie Welti's home, when Bernhard reached the bottom he experiences unconditional love, simple friendship and a mind that understands his intellectual unrest for an ideal state. He can feel fully thankful and finally find some rest.*

## SIGNPOST 4

**Overall Signpost 4 as it relates to The Past:**

*The small hope for positive change Bernhard saw in the beginning is destroyed the family curse of his past has caught up with him.*

**Main Character Signpost 4 as it relates to Understanding:**

*Finally, Bernhard surrenders to what he believes to be his true (cursed, harmful) nature and the destiny of a country in decay. He believes that the only hope for the people is that he abandonnes the scenary.*

**Impact Character Signpost 4 as it relates to Conceiving an Idea:**

*When Bernhard takes his life, the curtain falls. It is not know what the reactions of his father on this are. Johannes dies 1848 soon after Bernhard's suicide. Both of his sons have only one single heir. But it should be Paul Arnold Hirzel the son of Bernhard who would perpetuate the male family line into the future until our times. Johannes grand-grand-children son Johannes' daughter Anna Maria and Bernhard's grand-son Paul Arnold would be born after his death. According to Bernhard, his wife Elisabetha (Elise) Tobler was obsessed with material goods in a similar way like his father and she seemed to have a similar capricious temper like his mother, even though, both in less extend. Did she maintain the relation with the Hirzel family? From the Johannes death, neither conclusions can be drawn. He was already 72, a respectable age, especially considering his supposedly violent nature and heavy alcohol abuse.*

**Main vs. Impact Signpost 4 as it relates to Contemplation:**

*Surprisingly, Marie Welti is not able to give Bernhard's life another direction. He believes in being cursed and takes the decision to suicide. She supports this decision and defends it before Bernhard's friend Bluntschli. Finally, she accompanies him in death without ever considering that live could still have had something spared to offer.*



VOCABULARY:

**Changing One's Nature:** transforming one's nature

**Conceiving an Idea:** coming up with an idea

**Contemplation:** present considerations

**Developing a Plan:** visualizing how an existing idea might be implemented

**Doing:** engaging in a physical activity

**Gathering Information:** gathering information or experience

**How Things are Changing:** the way things are going

**Impulsive Responses:** innate responses

**Innermost Desires:** basic drives and desires

**Memories:** recollections

**Obtaining:** achieving or possessing something

**Playing a Role:** temporarily adopting a lifestyle

**The Future:** what will happen or what will be

**The Past:** what has already happened

**The Present:** the current situation and circumstances

**Understanding:** appreciating the meaning of something